

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

August 12, 2020

3 to 5 pm

Commission Room
380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96
Fort Monroe, Virginia

MEETING HELD ONLINE

Members Present Via WebEx

Wayne France
Tommy Kellum
Charles Johnson
Richard Harding
Ernest George
Jackie Shannon

Richard Green
Beverly Ludford
J. C. Hudgins
Lake Cowart
Dan Porter

VMRC/VIMS Staff

Andrew Button-In Room
Jamie Hogge-In Room
Pat Geer
Ben Stagg
Missy Southworth

Meeting was called to order by Wayne France at 3:09 p.m.

Andrew Button, Head Conservation and Replenishment, opened the meeting with proposing a possibility of including designated areas of the Corrotaman River for Hand Tong (HT) harvest, October to December for the 2020-2021 Public Oyster Harvest Season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Committee Member Kellum requested adding Middle Ground and potentially other areas to the upcoming 2020-2021 Public Oyster Harvest season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Committee Member Kellum made a motion to approve the proposed areas to the upcoming 2020-2021 Public Oyster Harvest season to include Middle Ground and potentially opening other areas for harvest. Committee Member Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Button proposed designating separate HS/HT public oyster harvest areas in York River for the upcoming 2020-2021 Public Oyster Harvest season. Potential new York River HT areas may include: Aberdeen, Claybank and Bell Rock areas.

Committee Member Green made a motion to approve the proposed new HT areas in the York River. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Button presented the draft proposed 2020-2021 Public Oyster Harvest seasons, which included suggested areas to open for the 2020-2021 Public Oyster Harvest season by Committee members and a proposed change in bushel/vessel limit for HT/By Hand.

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The Proposed DRAFT 2020 – 2021:

****THIS PROPOSED DRAFT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION****

James River

Clean Cull:

Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. – HT

Area 1, 3:

Oct. – HT

Nov. – HS* (harvest ending at noon)

Dec. & Jan. – HS (harvest ends at 2 pm)

Feb. - HT

Area 2:

Oct. – HT

Nov. – HS* (harvest ending at noon)

Dec. & Jan. – HS (harvest ends at 2 pm)

Feb. - HT

Seed Oysters:

***Oct. (Originally proposed as CLOSED in Oct. – Request to remain to open Oct.)

Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May – HT

York River

York HTA

Dec., Jan., Feb. - HT

Area 1:

Oct., Nov. – HT

Feb. – HS* (harvest ending at noon)

Milford Haven

Milford Haven:

Dec., Jan., & Feb. – HT

Deep Rock:

Dec., Jan., & Feb. – PT

Rappahannock River

Area 1:

Nov., Feb. & ***March (first 2 weeks) – PT

Area 6:

Nov. – HS* (harvest ending at noon) & Jan. - HS

Area 7:

Dec. & Feb.* (harvest ending at noon). – HS

Area 9:

Oct., Nov. & Dec. – HT

Corrotoman HTA:

Oct., Nov. & Dec. – HT

Great Wicomico

Great Wicomico 2:

Dec. & Jan. – HS

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Blackberry Hangs

Oct. – PT

Feb. – HS.* (harvest ending at noon)

Little Wicomico and Coan

Little Wicomico & Coan:

Oct., Nov. & Dec. – HT

Yeocomico

PG 8, 100, 107, 112:

Oct., Nov., & Dec. – HT

Tangier-Pocomoke

Poco Area 2 & Tangier Area 2:

Dec. & Jan. – DR, Feb. – DR* (harvest ending at noon)

Poco. Sound 9, 10:

Dec., Jan. – HT

Jan. - V HS.* (harvest ending at noon)

Seaside ES:

Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., & Mar. – HT/By Hand

The bushel limits for HS, DR & PT is proposed for an eight (8) bushel limit. **A fourteen (14) bushel limit with a 28 bushel vessel limit is proposed for HT and By Hand harvest.**

Committee Member Harding proposed Rappahannock River, Area 1 open November, close December and January, open for the month of February and the first two (2) weeks in March for PT.

Committee Member Kellum made a motion to approve the proposed modifications to Rappahannock River, Area 1 for the 2020-2021 Public Oyster Harvest season. Committee Member George seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A request was made by a Committee Member to open James River Seed Area in the month of October for HT, as is years past.

A motion was made to approve opening James River Seed Area in October through May with close monitoring of areas by staff, given staff's ability to survey areas in a timely manner due to COVID-19 restrictions. Committee Member Kellum seconded the motion. The motion passed 8 – 2. Committee Members France and Ludford opposed.

Committee Member Ludford made a motion to approve the original proposed plan. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned @ 4:15 p.m.

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VMRC does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities; therefore, if you are in need of reasonable accommodations due to a disability, please advise Linda Hancock (757- 247-8052) not less than five work days prior to the meeting time and identify your needs⁴